

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 08610 182022Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----182109Z 067817 /73

P R 181945Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8385  
USMISSION USBERLIN PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T BONN 08610

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR PGOV WB GW GE US UK FR UK  
SUBJECT: POSSIBILITY OF PRESS SURFACING OF SOVIET  
COMPLAINT ABOUT FLAG TOURS

REF: USBER 1338

1. BONN GROUP REACHED AGREEMENT TO HAVE EMBASSIES IN BONN RESPOND TO ANY INQUIRIES WITH STATEMENT: "IT IS NOT OUR PRACTICE TO COMMENT ON STORIES OF THIS SORT."
2. IF FRG IS QUERIED, IT WILL SAY THAT MATTERS OF THIS NATURE ARE FOR THE ALLIES. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT MISSIONS IN BERLIN SHOULD NOT REFER INQUIRERS TO THE EMBASSIES IN BONN.
3. FRG REP (HENZE) SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT NOW BE APPROPRIATE TO BRIEF SELECTED FOREIGN OFFICE REPRESENTA-  
SECRET

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TIVES IN THE NATO CAPITALS SINCE WE ASKED OUR NATO ALLIES TO ENDORSE THE LONDON DECLARATION WITHOUT INFORMING THEM OF THE DEMARCHES. HE SAID IT COULD BE EMBARRASSING IF THE MATTER LATER BECAME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND OTHER NATO CAPITALS HAD NOT BEEN BRIEFED. ALLIED REPS ARGUED THAT IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO FOLLOW THIS COURSE SINCE THE OFFICIAL KNOWLEDGE IN OTHER NATO

CAPITALS COULD PROVIDE INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION WHICH WOULD UNDERCUT OUR NO COMMENT LINE. HENZE WITHDREW HIS SUGGESTION.

4. COMMENT: HENZE'S SUGGESTION HAS SOME VALIDITY, ESPECIALLY IF ALLIED CAPITALS DECIDE AT SOME POINT TO AFFIRM PUBLICLY THE DEMARCHES. WE BELIEVE THAT NO PUBLIC STATEMENT IS EITHER CONTEMPLATED OR NECESSARY. EMBASSY BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT IF A PUBLIC STATEMENT IS MADE AT SOME POINT, THE FRG AND ALLIES SHOULD COORDINATE SUCH STATEMENT AND INFORM NATO CAPITALS PRIOR TO ITS ISSUANCE. UNLESS DEPARTMENT WISHES OTHERWISE, WE WILL SEEK AD REF AGREEMENT ON THIS ASPECT AT FRIDAY MEETING.  
STOESSEL

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BERLIN ACCESS, ALLIANCE, PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, MILITARY VEHICLES, STATUS OF BERLIN, BERLIN QUADRIpartite MATTERS, THE PRESS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 18-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977BONN08610  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2476927  
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**Subject:** POSSIBILITY OF PRESS SURFACING OF SOVIET COMPLAINT ABOUT FLAG TOURS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PGOV, WB, GE, GC, US, UK, FR  
**To:** STATE USBERLIN  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009